

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03

SCS-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCA-01 OPR-02 NSC-05

SS-15 INRE-00 /054 W

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O 031105Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4431

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3524

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: US BANKS PLAN SAIGON STAFF EVACUATION

REF: HONG KONG 3448

1. CONGEN HAS BEEN TOLD IN CONFIDENCE BY HK REPRESENTATIVE OF BANK OF AMERICA THAT THEY, TOGETHER WITH CHASE AND FNCB, ARE WORKING ON PLAN TO EVACUATE EXPATS AND KEY VIETNAMESE STAFF MEMBERS FROM SAIGON. PLAN, WHICH IS STILL NECESSARILY VERY SHORT OF DETAILS , INVOLVES CHARTERING OF PLANES TO FLY TO SAIGON AT INTERVALS IN THE HOPE THAT EVACUATION WILL BE POSSIBLE AT SOME POINT. FIRST PLANE, A 747 CHARTERED FROM PANAM, SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE SAIGON EVENING APRIL 4. DECISION ON WHICH OF VIETNAMESE THE BANKS WILL TRY TO GET OUT WILL BE MADE BY LOCAL MANAGER. PLANES WILL TAKE VIETNAMESE EVACUEES TO NEARBY LOCATION UNTIL THEIR EVENTUAL PLACEMENT CAN BE DECIDED. HONG KONG BEING CONSIDERED AS ONE POSSIBILITY BECAUSE BANKS HAVE IMPRESSION THAT COLONY WOULD ACCEPT EVACUEES TEMPORARILY.

2. WE WILL STAY CLOSE TO THIS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE USE OF HONG KONG AS WAY STATION. HOWEVER, BANK OF AMERICA WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO SAIGON APRIL
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4 TO JOIN TWO REPS OF CHASE ALREADY THERE, AND

REPRESENTATIVE WILL CONTACT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS PLANS.
CROSS

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